AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claim listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for activating the cell-surface receptor muscle, skeletal, receptor tyrosine kinase (MuSK) in a cell having an abnormal dystrophin-associated protein complex (DAPC), comprising contacting the cell with a biglycan therapeutic in an amount effective to potentiate agrin-induced phosphorylation of the receptor MuSK ~~wherein the cell has an abnormal dystrophin-associated protein complex (DAPC)~~, wherein the receptor MuSK is activated thereby ~~in the cell~~.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the biglycan therapeutic upregulates utrophin levels.

17-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the biglycan therapeutic is a polypeptide including a biglycan amino acid sequence which is at least about 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 9.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the biglycan amino acid sequence includes one or more Leucine Rich Repeats (LRRs) of human biglycan having SEQ ID NO: 9.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the polypeptide is derivatized with one or more glycosaminoglycan (GAG) side chains.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~32~~ 13, wherein the biglycan amino acid sequence is at least about 90% identical to amino acids 38-365 of SEQ ID NO: 9.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~32~~ 36, wherein the biglycan amino acid sequence is at least about 95% identical to amino acids 38-365 of SEQ ID NO: 9.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the cell is a muscle cell.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising assaying activity of the receptor MuSK.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the biglycan therapeutic binds to alpha-sarcoglycan and gamma-sarcoglycan.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the biglycan therapeutic stimulates phosphorylation of alpha-sarcoglycan on a cell membrane.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the biglycan amino acid sequence is identical to amino acids 38-365 of SEQ ID NO: 9.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the biglycan amino acid sequence is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions of 6.0 x sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45 °C to a complementary strand of SEQ ID NO: 8.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the biglycan therapeutic stabilizes dystrophin-associated protein complexes (DAPCs) on the cell surface.

45. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the abnormal DAPC is caused by one or more of (i) a mutation in, (ii) an abnormally low level of, a DAPC component, wherein the DAPC component is: a dystroglycan, dystrophin, or a sarcoglycan.

46. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the assay for the receptor MuSK activity comprises determining the phosphorylation state of the receptor MuSK.